Meeting #4 – Implementation Processes for Online Learning

**Kathy from NYC -** Online Learning and Content management was a very timely topic at the COSN event. There is also a great deal of emphasis on this topic in the ne w education technology plan.

**Where is your district in terms of development of an enterprise wide online learning platform?**

**Broward –**

Broward has [www.beep.browardschools.com](http://www.beep.browardschools.com) utilizing Learning village.

Portions of this site include:

**Teacher portal -** 180 days worth of K-12 lesson plans all aligned to state and national standard. Also includes hyperlinked activities and district recommended resources.

**Student Panel –** group access area and access to online textbooks and paid District subscriptions.

**Parent Portal –** provides oversight on grades, attendance etc.

**Administrative portal** – came into focus this year. Principals have a meeting place and place to store common documents.

River deep, Blackboard, Elluminate, Learning Village, Nettracker

**Chicago -**

Currently has a Virtual high school (for credit recovery) and virtual charter school

Looking to acquire an LMS platform – initiating a pilot this summer for summer school. Larger group take this on next year. 10 schools, focusing on 6th grade math to keep the scope manageable.

Doing an RFP with different providers Angel, Blackboard, Desire2Learn etc. Hope to have the decision by the end of March.

Going to purchase online content and curriculum to get the ball rolling. As teachers become more comfortable, build capacity to expand. Another major component is Teacher Professional Development and training them to use this technology.

**How can we share this information?**

With national standards – more opportunity to share across different platforms.

Potentially purchase content and share the cost.

**Clark County**

Virtual High School – Blackboard, Moodle, Credit Retrieval/Repair Compass Learning (to purchase courses), Pathore to create content in-house

All students have access to attend the Virtual High School.

**NYC**

Looking at 7 content providers – ex: Compass, K12, Apex, Plato, Vetting them for SSO

Pilot for 42 schools for a virtual high school and a system-wide provider. Advanced placement cohort, credit repair, and blended (which would be a pledge to do 1/3 of their content online, use purchased content, modify it, or create courses from scratch and to share).

Looking into creating courses across schools and content management

Common tagging is big issue – imsglobal.org (Had preliminary discussions with them – NYC wants a widget environment to offer a wide variety of learning resources).

So far they are hearing from the vendors that common tagging is not the norm – that it would change their business model. How to we push the vendors to do this?

Widget type environment would include course content and the back end – how to do you call back stuff that people put in. Looking for a system that can easily snap items in and out and has a flexible architecture so different platforms can work together.

**People’s experience with single sign-on**

**Broward**

Started with teachers personnel numbers and a password identification system

Student portal – also use student ID and birth-date

Vendor Content with Single sign-on – Ex - Discovery Education (over a million downloads) – worked with them and other vendors to determine how to set up that path but they can architect for single sign-on

Grade books – how incorporating?

Global Scholars – stand-alone resource not part of single sign-on environment. Virtual Counselor is how parents, teachers, etc. get to data.

**Doug from Broward -** Move to digital learning resources?

When we get into digital content feeding these systems, what is the role of the publishing industry?

It would make sense to work together on common RFP. The publishers are prepared to shift their delivery model if districts have buy-in. (Need United voice backed up by united vision).

**John from Chicago -** The more you can leverage that work – the better!

**Kathy – NYC** isputting vendors on notice. Everyone talking to the same vendors (let them know that our group is talking to each other – same vendors)

Doug from Broward – also should discuss the access layer – how is it going to be provided, to what devices? There is a benefit of some cohesion.

**What are reasonable expectations in terms of user adaptation and sustainability?**

**Broward**

They have data on use of each of the vendor areas that they purchase and the content that they developed.

Virtual school has grown over time - Teachers like BEEP a lot. Definitely being used and is valuable.

Teacher portal – content is quite robust – Parents and Administrative panel not as robust.

**Chicago –**

Standalone – resources (pockets of using it)

Online learning piece – the Virtual High School is growing

**Funding – How fund initially and how are you keeping it going?**

**NYC –** Title 2D, Stimulus funds, more money at the school level instead of district level

**Chicago –** Title 2D – as we move forward. If we start sharing content and creating courses we can find funding from a new variety of sources.

**Broward –**board approved initiative – coming out of general funds – district is making this investment.

**Challenges with Unions, parents, etc.**

**Broward -** This has been a carrot not stick approach - if you build it and it has value, people will use it. The traffic that they generate comes from intrinsic value – because no one is forced to do it. Parents also seem to like it.

Gradebook – is required, but not a big struggle. Union added a piece about the gradebook in the teacher’s contacts.

**NYC -** Developing a strategy for their content and build – looking to host the full RFP version on the cloud instead of buying iron.

**Broward-** Makes sense if it works. Maybe invest in building a cloud that they can share. Not everyone is using 100% of the stuff at any given time. Suggested common data centers for the Consortium.

Sandbox idea – taking that to a national level for the delivery of application.

Areas for possible collaboration:

1. National standards
2. Common tagging for files, documents and Content
3. Cloud Strategy
4. RFP collaboration

**Where is everyone in the procurement of these things?**

The group decided to develop a Matrix/Timeline to use in communication with the business offices. Doug from Broward volunteered to make the matrix and post it to the wiki. He will notify Jessica to alert the group to go fill it out.

The next call will review what is posted and look for commonalities in the matrix that can emerge from this effort. The group agreed to use business level language not overly technical.